



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

**Contact:** Public Information Director  
City of Gaithersburg  
301-258-6310  
cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

### For Immediate Release

## Employee/Team Awards Presented to Wes Rhodes & Parks Maintenance Team

**Gaithersburg, MD – (December 17, 2019)** At the Mayor and City Council meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019, Paralegal Wes Rhodes and the Parks Maintenance Team were presented with Employee Recognition Awards for the third quarter of calendar year 2019.

Made up of peers from each department, Gaithersburg's Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) reviews nominations for individuals and teams on a quarterly basis. These winners are then eligible for the annual Employee and Team of the Year Awards.

Wes Rhodes, Paralegal with the Office of the City Attorney, was named Employee of the Third Quarter for consistently going "above and beyond" when working with City staff and departments on a wide variety of contract issues. Wes handles contract drafting and approvals, and works with departments to ensure proper insurance coverage and an effective approval process. He works with staff to address specific concerns or unusual contractor requests, and manages all of the contract templates the City now uses. Wes was particularly lauded for taking the initiative to carry a contract through the approval process rather than allowing it to be delayed.

The Parks Maintenance Team, comprised of Jason Braithwaite, Mark Smith, Bill Gilbert, Andrew Rosencrantz, and Lloyd Piar of the Department of Public Works, was named the Team of the Third Quarter. The Team was responsible for the work on the Gemmell Family Playground build at City Hall. The City partnered with "Where Angels Play," a nonprofit organization that builds playgrounds after tragedies, such as Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy and the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. The Gemmell Family Playground honors and celebrates the lives of Marie, Cole and Devin Gemmell, who were tragically killed in 2014 when a private plane crashed into their family home near the Montgomery County Airport. The City featured the Foundation and the [Gemmell Family Playground](#) in the fall 2019 edition of *inGaithersburg* magazine, available [here](#).

-more-

## **2 – 2 – 2 /Employee Awards**

The Parks Maintenance Team was instrumental in preparing and executing the project, removing the old playground equipment, grading the site, and installing a new drainage system. The Team worked late evenings and through the weekend to complete the project in four days so that it would be ready in time for a dedication ceremony. They ensured that whatever the project needed was provided, assisting in the actual installation and ceremony to dedicate the project.

For more information on the Employee Recognition Awards please contact the Office of the City Manager at 301-258-6310 or visit the City's website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

###